

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 17049 030518Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /010 W
-----056020 030520Z /17-R
R 030440Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4820

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 17049

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, TH
SUBJECT: DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN FOR THAILAND

REF: STATE 173142

1. EMBASSY HAS CAREFULLY REVIEWED DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN FOR THAILAND, MENTIONED IN REFTEL AND RECEIVED BY POUCH AUG 2. DRAFT PLAN APPEARS WELL-CONSIDERED AND OBJECTIVE, CORRESPONDING CLOSELY TO EMBASSY'S VIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THAILAND. WE HAVE TWO SUGGESTIONS ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF DRAFT, HEYED TO PARAGRAPHS THEREIN.

2. (PARA A-1-C.) (ARBITRARY ARRESTS OR IMPRISONMENT). PENULTIMATE SENTENCE OF FINAL PARA OF THIS SECTION STATES, "OF THE APPROXIMATELY 3,000 DETAINED UNDER ORDER NUMBER 22, APPROXIMATELY 1,000 REMAIN IN DETENTION." NUMBER DETAINED UNDER ORDER NUMBER 22, ON ALL CHARGES, MAY WELL BE MUCH HIGHER, THOUGH "POLITICAL" PRISONERS ARRESTED THEREUNDER HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY SMALL. TO AVOID UNNECESSARY CONTENTION ON THIS POINT, SUGGEST SENTENCE BE REPLACED WITH FOLLOWING: "OF THE SEVERAL THOUSANDS DETAINED UNDER ORDER NUMBER 22, MOST ARE HELD FOR SHORT PERIODS OF TIME BEFORE RELEASE, AND ALL CASES ARE REVIEWED REGULARLY; APPROXIMATELY 1,000 REMAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN DETENTION".

3. (PARA A-2-C.) (DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES). PENULTIMATE SENTENCE OF THIS SECTION STATES, "THE PRESENT THAI GOVERNMENT CONSISTS OF A CIVILIAN CABINET RESPONSIBLE TO THE THAI MILITARY AND A NON-ELECTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY." OF 18 MEMBERS OF PRESENT CABINET, FOUR MEMBERS (ONE DEPUTY PRIME

MINISTER, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE,
A AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRY) ARE RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS.
TWO OF THESE (DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BUNCHAI BAMRUNGPHONG
AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE SANGAT CHALOYU) RETIRED FROM
ACTIVE SERVICE AS RECENTLY AS SEPT 30, 1976. SUGGEST
SENTENCE BE REPLACED BY FOLLOWING, "THE PRESENT THAI
GOVERNMENT CONSISTS OF A MAJLY CIVILIAN CABINET
APPOINTED BY THE KING AND SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLE MILITARY
INFLUENCE."
O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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